

# Machine Safety

## DID YOU KNOW?

A **lockout** and **tagout** should be used whenever an unexpected start-up or release of stored energy could injure you or your co-workers.

## FACT or FICTION?

**FICTION:** Machine guards just get in the way and keep you from getting your work done.

**FACT:** Machine guards were invented to protect you. You may think machine guards will slow you down. But nothing slows down your work as much as an injury.

## 5 WAYS MACHINE GUARDS WORK

- Barrier guards. These protect you from contact with moving parts and materials. Barrier guards prevent you from entering the danger area, and from being hit by materials such as chips that can fly away from the equipment.
- Interlocks. An example of an interlock is a machine that won't operate unless the guard is in place.
- Electronic sensors. A sensor can tell if any part of your body is in the hazardous area. When that happens, the machine stops.
- Two-handed controls. They are deliberately designed for use by both hands. This keeps your hands out of the point of operation.
- Pull-back or restraint devices. These guards actually pull you back from the dangerous area.

**W**ear snug clothing when working around moving machinery. Button sleeves and tuck in shirts and pant legs. Avoid wearing scarves and drawstrings. Be aware that even gloves can present an entanglement hazard.

Do not wear jewelry. The hazards of neck chains are obvious, but even a ring can catch and result in a finger amputation or something even worse.

Long hair should be tied or restrained with a hairnet. Hair simply tucked inside a hard hat can come loose and get caught in moving parts. Even a long beard can be a hazard in a machine work environment.

Make sure all equipment is properly guarded to prevent entanglement and other machine injuries. Report any missing or defective guards and shields to your supervisor.

Never remove or block a machine guard.

When making adjustments or repairs, follow the correct lockout and tagout procedures, and replace guards before returning the machine to service.

Know how to quickly locate the emergency stop and start controls on all machinery in your work area.

## WHAT A GUARD CAN DO FOR YOU

Guards should be installed in such a way to prevent you from coming into contact with any blades, rotating parts, pinchpoints or any point of operation. They should protect you from moving stock, debris (such as chips) and sparks.